

Ship to Shore

Partnering for Success: Task Force Koa Moana 20 to Palau's COVID-FREE Borders

Task Force Koa Moana 20 (TF KM20), a purposed-built task force of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) aboard the USNS City of Bismarck (T-EPF 9) are successfully executing its mission in Palau in the face of extraordinary circumstances caused by the global pandemic, COVID-19. TF KM20 members are performing unilateral projects that enhance partnerships and creating opportunities to stimulate the Palauan economy by working with local vendors to fulfill contracting requirements.

In continued support of its partners and allies, Marines and Sailors with TF KM20, are conducting these engagements in the Republic of Palau from July through September of 2020. The Koa Moana task force is taking extensive measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The health and safety of Palauan citizens and U.S. service members participating in TF KM20 is an enduring priority. Prior to deploying, all task force Marines, Sailors and ship staff participated in a three week quarantine. After arriving in Palau, the Marines and Sailors remain quarantined for an additional 14 days. To date, all members deployed as part of TF KM20 tested negative for COVID-19 and extend their gratitude to the Ministry of Health for their cooperation and professionalism in working alongside TF KM20 to keep Palau healthy.



Koa Moana, meaning “ocean warrior,” is designed to strengthen and enhance relationships between the U.S. and partner nations/states in the Indo Pacific region, improve interoperability with local security establishments, and serve as a Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team afloat in support of the U.S. Indo Pacific Command’s strategic and operational objectives. TF KM20 provides a unique opportunity to enhance relationships in the Republic of Palau- including:

- Peleliu Airfield repairs
- Construction of SWA Summer House and a Water Catchment Protective Fence
- Humanitarian Assistance Survey Assessments
- UXO sweeping and assessment, underwater assessments for UXO as well
- Subject Matter Expert Exchanges
- Live Fire Range with Law enforcement

